

Sandbach Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1925.



ROBERT RIDDELL,

M.B.C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Sandbach Urban District, 1925.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1925 on the health condition of your District.

1. General Statistics.

Area 2693 acres, $\frac{3}{4}$ Sandy, $\frac{1}{4}$ Clay Soil.

Population 6,086.

Assessable Value £16,683 5s. 8d.

Penny Rate realizes £69 10s. 3d.

Inhabited Houses 1469.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Births.

The number of births has been 124.—Boys 66, Girls 58.
Birthrate per thousand of 20.3.

Deaths.

There have been 69, 8 of these being transferrable, making an average per thousand of 11.3.

Infantile Deaths.

Of the above deaths, 8 were of children under one year of age. The causes of these deaths being Pneumonia 2, Diarrhœa 1, Malformation from Birth 2, Debility from Birth 3.

Infectious Diseases.

These were 48, e.g. :—

Scarlet Fever 26.

Opthalmia 1.

Tuberculosis 9—5 being of lungs.

Diphtheria 5.

Erysipelas 5.

Puerperal Fever 2.

Of these Infectious diseases 21 of Scarlet Fever and 5 of Diphtheria were sent to the West Heath Sanatorium. One case of Puerperal Fever, I am sorry to say, died.

Special Feature of Epidemics.

Although there have been a fair number of Scarlet Fever cases, they have been spread over the whole year, and at no time has it been thought necessary to close any of our schools, and we have been very free from the other children's complaints, such as Whooping Cough and Measles, and no special precautions have been considered necessary.

Midwives.

There are only 4 Midwives now residing in our District, although a few from the outlying districts frequently practice in our area.

Child Welfare.

This continues to do good work and the Clinics are very well attended. During the year there were 24 Clinics with a Medical Man attending 13 of them. 509 visits were paid to the Centre by mothers with children, and 200 of these children were examined by the Doctor, and all the others were weighed and suitable advice given to them, and from what I could see and hear, the working and management of the Centre is very satisfactory.

Hospitals.

We have no Hospitals in the immediate District, but we have a share in 3 conjoint ones.

- (1) Arclid Infirmary, belonging to the Congleton Board of Guardians, containing 84 beds, with 5 Nurses for the needy sick poor or accidents in the vicinity, also for Maternity Cases if so desired by any one who cannot be conveniently looked after at home.
- (2) West Heath Sanatorium, with 55 beds for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Encephalitis Lethargica.
- (3) Small Pox Hospital, at Arclid, with 10 beds, five for each sex, kept in constant working condition by a caretaker and which could receive patients on a very short notice.

General Hospitals.

These are chiefly at Manchester where the majority of our operation cases, eye cases and gynecological cases go, namely, to the Royal Infirmary, Eye Hospital, and St. Mary's. The children going to Pendlebury. At all of these Hospitals our people have received every care and attention, especially so in urgent cases.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Red Cross Ambulance has proved of very great service this last year. All cases were removed by competent Ambulance Men, who accompanied the patients, if necessary, at a much reduced rate. We have also, through the kindness of Messrs. Fodens Ltd., the use of their Ambulance, and in cases of need is granted readily.

Factories and Workshops.

These consist of Engineering, Silk, Fustian, Chemical and Salt Works, and are visited regularly. The privy and closet accommodation and the cleanliness and whitewashing of these have been carried out satisfactorily during the year.

Pathological Examination.

Our Diphtheria and other swabs are sent to York Place, Manchester, the cost being met by the Council. All Tuberculosis suspected Sputums are sent to Chester where they are examined free of charge by the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

All the positive cases are ultimately taken charge of by the T.B. Officer who suggests suitable treatment to the Medical Officer in charge of the case, and if he so desires it, gives them either Tuberculin or provides Sanatorium treatment, and I consider this system has worked very well indeed.

List of Adoptive Acts and Byelaws of the Council.

Sanitary Administration.

(Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
Adopted 14/6/97.)

Part II (Streets and Buildings) other than Sections 23 and 26.	{ Of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, adopted 9th July, 1928.
Part III (Sanitary Provisions).	
Part IV (Infectious Diseases).	
Part V (Common Lodging Houses) and	
Part VI (Recreation Grounds).	

Byelaws.

New Street and Buildings, (adopted 1/2/97).
New Byelaws, (adopted 16/6/24).
Slaughter Houses, (adopted 1/2/97).
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, (adopted 1/2/97).
Common Lodging Houses, (adopted 1/2/97).
Nuisances, (adopted 1/2/97).
Markets, (adopted 1/12/90).

Regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, (adopted 4/12/99).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer (Part time).

Dr. Robert Riddell, M.B.C.M., Edinburgh.

Other Appointments :—

Police Surgeon.

Certifying Surgeon.

Surgeon Training School.

Med. Officer Arclid Infirmary and Workhouse.

Med. Officer, Sandbach District Congleton Union.

Sanitary Inspector (Full time).

Mr. Geo. Allman, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Sanitary Inspector keeps the places where food is prepared under observation.

No complaints have been received during the year. The various foods exposed for sale by the local tradesmen have been of a satisfactory quality.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the District. The six on the register are all supplied with the Town's Water and connected with the Sewer. Thirty-five visits have been made, and all were found satisfactory. 3 have Water Closets and 3 Pail System.

Slaughter Houses.

Three hundred and eleven visits have been made during the year. Occasionally it has been necessary to remind owners that the removal of offals must receive attention within twenty-four hours after slaughtering.

The floor of one of the Slaughter Houses has been relaid with impervious material.

Of the seven private Slaughter Houses four are built of bricks, the other three mostly of wood. The majority are supplied with Town's Water, the others with pumps.

Lime washing notices have been issued in accordance with the Byelaws.

Unsound Food and Food Inspection.

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned during the year, including the five under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925. Part of

		Carcases.		Approx. Weight.
Beef	...	8	...	540 lbs.
Pigs	...	1	...	60 lbs.
Rabbits	...	13 from the Market.		

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Since this order came into operation on the 1st September, 1925, four Bovines have been notified as suffering from Tuberculosis (1 of Udder). All were found after slaughtering to be unfit for food and condemned.

Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfection and extent of their use.

The arrangement for the disinfection of infected articles is very satisfactory. A Steam Disinfector is used for this purpose at the West Heath Sanatorium, Congleton, where infected articles are sent.

During the year the Horse Ambulance has been superseded by mechanical power, which expedites the removal of infected patients to hospital, and at the same time, takes in the separate compartment provided, the articles that have been in contact with infection, which, after disinfection, are usually returned the same day, thus causing a minimum of inconvenience.

Printed instructions and disinfectants are issued to the person in charge of the house, infected rooms are fumigated, sanitary defects noted, and reported to the Committee.

101 Visits were made to houses where infectious diseases were notified.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

113 Visits were made during the year, the usual lime washing notices were served, followed by a visit of the Inspector. One building has been altered so as to accommodate six more cows.

The numbers at the close of 1925 were—

Dairies	...	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	27
Milksellers	...	...	8

Food and Drugs Act.

The County Council takes control of this.

Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total ... 23.

(B) With State assistance under the Housing Act, 1919, 1923, 1924.

(I) By Local Authority None.

(II) By other bodies or persons :—

With State Assistance 22

Without State Assistance 1

Of the 23—10 are of the Bungalow type and one is attached to a Recreation Ground. All are supplied with Town's Water, 20 are supplied with Water Closets, and 3 with Pail Closet. 15 are connected to the Sewer, 4 have Septic Tanks, and 4 have Cesspools.

Plans have also been submitted for twenty-five more, apart from the Council's scheme.

Inspection.

There have been 629 inspections of premises for defects, and 6 houses inspected and recorded under the Inspection of District Regulation. It was not necessary to issue any statutory notices.

Action under Statutory Power.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (a) Statutory Notices | } Nil. |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| (c) Sec. 17 and 18, Housing and Town Planning Act. | |
| (d) Closing or demolition of Unfit Houses. | |

Sanitary Administration.

During the year 2034 loads of Refuse have been removed from Ashpits, Bins, and Traders' Refuse. The Council in July decided to put into operation Section 48 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and to charge three shillings per load for removal of Trade Refuse. Since then eleven loads have been removed by request.

The conversion of Privy and Pail Closets to the Water Carriage System does not make much progress. 3 Pails and 1 Privy Closet have been converted. 19 Privies have been replaced by Pail Closets. The Silk Mill and Elworth Schools are now supplied with Water Closets.

During the year the Council has also decided to put into operation Section 39 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, with reference to assisting owners to convert the unsanitary Privies to Water Carriage System.

Work of Sanitary Inspector under Article XX.

The Inspector makes a Monthly Report to the Sanitary Committee of nuisances requiring attention, and any action taken in connection therewith.

Each Monthly Report shows what progress has been made and action taken in trying to get the nuisances abated. A report is made until the work has been completed, and the required improvement carried out.

GEORGE ALLMAN,

Cert. R. San. I.

Survey Section.

Water Supply.

The sufficiency and quality of the Water Supply are both satisfactory. The supply is constant, and practically the whole of the houses in the District are supplied direct, only a few isolated houses off the pipe line being dependent on pumps and wells for a supply.

The source of supply is at Arclid where there is no risk of contamination, as the water is obtained through a number of small bore tubes at depths varying from 70 to 80 feet. From this source the crude water is conveyed to the Pumping Station, through either a 7in. or 10in. main. These mains being in duplicate and one used at a time.

At the Pumping Station the water is treated by Clarke's process.

A large quantity of water is supplied to the Congleton Rural District Council, and to cope with increased consumption in this area and the Urban area, it has been found necessary to adopt a comprehensive scheme which should place the Water Supply in a more satisfactory and adequate position. The new Reservoir will give much longer time for settlement, and the duplication of the plant will greatly improve pumping facilities, which are now over-taxed. The scheme is now well in hand.

The construction at the Pumping Station of a new concrete Reservoir of 300,000 gallons capacity is nearing completion. The scheme involves an expenditure of about £8,000, and in addition to the above Reservoir it comprises :—

- (a) Duplication of Machinery at the Pumping Stations by installing a crude Oil Engine and Pumps for both crude and clear water.
- (b) Duplication of the Delivery Main from Pumping Station to Tower.
- (c) Laying a 5in. Main along portion of Congleton Road.
- (d) Additional Tubes at the source of supply, and
- (e) Purchase of Land both at the Pumping Station and source of supply.

During 1920-25 building operations have necessitated short extensions of the Water Mains in Smithfield Lane, Offley Road, Elworth Road, Dean's Lane, and for the new Council Houses off Crewe Road.

Rivers and Streams.

The only impure matter that gets into our streams comes from further up the stream, and in my opinion, what pollution there is, is not injurious to health.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The chief Sewerage System is in very good working order, and the effluent is maintained at its very satisfactory standard.

All the Sewers of the Town are connected with the Main Sewerage Outfall Works, except one portion which has a small system of its own, and another that serves the low lying portion, is provided with a small Pumping Station which lifts the sewage into the sewer on a higher level. Storm Overflows have been placed at various points in the manholes.

The Main Outfall Works are designed to deal with the sewage, resulting from 4,600 persons at 20 gallons per head, or, 92,000 gallons per day, dry weather flow.

The Works consist of Detritus Tanks, Septic Tanks, Dosing Tank, and two circular Percolating Filter Beds, Storm Beds, and three acres of Land for final treatment. The Sewage is delivered at the Works in two sewers which join in an open channel and pass by an open trough, 12ft. long, arranged so as to overflow at three times the dry weather flow.

There are two Detritus Tanks, each 10ft. square by 6ft. deep, with a capacity of 7,500 gallons, two Septic Tanks, each 41ft. by 20ft. by 9ft. deep, with a capacity 92,250 gallons. The Dosing Tank with Automatic Syphon was added in 1922, which has assisted in a more equal distribution of the sewage to the sprinklers.

The Sprinklers are of the four arm type, distributing over the Filter Beds, which are 70 feet in diameter, 5 feet deep, upon which the sewage is distributed by the Adam's Distributor, and from here the filtrate is distributed to the 3 acres of Land by an open carrier.

The Filters are filled with tap clinkers, broken up to varying gauge, from 2in. at the bottom to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the top. The Land has been drained to an average depth of 4 feet.

The Storm Water is distributed over the Storm Bed by half channel pipes, and it contains 670 cubic yards of broken clinkers.

The small additional Outfall Works which serves Hassall Road, was constructed during 1925, consist of Detritus Tank, with Screen, Storm Tank, Settlement Tank, Dosing Tank, Percolating Filter, with the final filtration through two shallow Sand Filters, to the adjoining water course. This small system is capable of effectively dealing with 4,000 gallons per day dry weather flow.

The Filter Bed is 30 feet in diameter and 4ft. 3in. deep, filled with clinkers for the bottom 9in., 2in. to 3in. in size, the remaining 3ft. 6in. is made up of saggers from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1in. .

The Sprinkler is of the four arm type (supplied by Tukes and Bell). The Storm Overflow is fixed at three times the dry weather flow.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No complaints have been received and the present system is adequate and equal to the demands made upon it.

Extension of the Sewers have taken place at Hassall Road, Back Lane, Smithfield Lane, and East Elworth. All the District is now served by the Sewer, except the outlying district of Wheelock and Ettiley Heath. The East Elworth portion is connected to the Elworth Sewerage Outfall Works.

Closet Accommodation.		Approximate number of different types of Closets.	
	1925.		1921.
Water Closets	342		304
Pail Closets...	718	Emptied weekly.	659
Earthenware	20	Emptied every 6 weeks.	21
Privies ...	386		381

There has been 25 conversions during the last 5 year's to the Water Closet System.

No definite policy for the ultimate abolition of insanitary Privies has yet been put in operation, but the question is to receive further attention.

Scavenging.

The removal of House Refuse is carried out partly by contract and direct labour ; this method is most suitable for the District. Horse drawn vehicles are used.

The refuse is tipped on low lying ground, which is afterwards levelled and covered with earth. The contents of Pails and Privy Closets are taken into the out-lying district and distributed on the land.

Ashbins and Pits.

Fixed Ashpit	...	600	Emptied about each 8 weeks.
Movable Receptacles		869	Emptied weekly.

The fixed Ashpit is being substituted by the moveable Dustbin. There has been approximately 100 changed during the last five years.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been required.

The reading of atmospheric impurity is not taken.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulation.

A Soap Works had been erected in the out-lying District. The question of Byelaws to control this trade is receiving the attention of the Council. No complaints have been received.

Schools.

All the Schools in the District are supplied by the Town's Water Supply and suitably connected up with the different sewers. The Sanitary arrangements are all connected up also with sewers. There have been no closure of Schools in 1925. All children from infected houses are excluded from School until period of infection is over.

I. Housing.

General Housing conditions in the area.—

1. General Housing conditions are on the whole fairly satisfactory.
2. (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses. 72 houses have been built during the last 5 years, including the 24 built under the Council Scheme ; these have considerably reduced the shortage.

(b) Measures taken to contemplate to meet any shortage.

Plans have also been passed for a further 25 houses.

The Council Scheme include 6 in course of erection, and a contract has been signed for 12 more.

3. Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.

1921—5843.

1925—6026.

II. Overcrowding.

1. Extent ... about 2 % (estimate.)
2. Causes ... both economic and shortage.
3. Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding : Authority has been granted to assist private enterprise to the extent of 70 houses, and if there is a further demand, the Council will obtain the necessary authority.
4. Principal cases of over crowding during 1925 and action taken. None.

III. Fitness of Houses.

- (a) General standard of Housing in the area. The standard compares very favourably with the surrounding Districts.
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses. There are no really unfit houses, five are very old but will serve for some considerable time.
- (c) How far defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants? General action taken as regards unfit house under—
 - (a) Public Health acts.
 - (b) The Housing Acts.

IV. Unhealthy Areas. None.

V. Byelaws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodging, and to Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Byelaws with reference to New Streets and Buildings were adopted on the 16th June, 1924.

There are no Byelaws in force with reference to Houses let in Lodgings and Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The supply of Milk to this District is highly satisfactory both as regards to supply and distribution.

Action taken as to tuberculous Milk and tuberculous Cattle. None by this Council.

Number of Licenses granted for the sale of Milk under special designation. None.

No License has been applied for for the pasteurisation of Milk.

Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers, or of Licenses for graded Milk with reasons for the refusal or revocation. None.

The summarized result of the bacteriological examination of samples of graded Milk. None. County Council take control.

Meat.

I. The inspection of Meat is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The butchers' use the three first days of the week as regular slaughtering times, and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. All slaughtering outside these hours must be notified to the Inspector, who endeavours to inspect all animals slaughtered.

Condemned meat is suitably disposed of by being converted into manure at Groby Road, Coppenhall.

II. The inspection of Stalls, Shops, Stores, and Vehicles is also carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

III. There are not any Public Slaughter Houses.

Registered	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Licensed	7	7	7

Food Poisoning.

No cases have been notified.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

During the last five years we have had slight epidemics of the usual childhood character, such as Measles and Whooping Cough, but not an epidemic of any grave importance. Our chief trouble has been during the last three years with a very mild type of Scarlet Fever, which has been most difficult and trying to deal with. The cases mostly were of so mild a type that they were most difficult to diagnose correctly even by Medical Men, and a great number of the cases never peeled at all, the consequence was that children having a rash to-day would be free from any signs of it to-morrow, and in that way many cases never came under supervision at all and continued at School.

In 1921	...	...	11 cases.
1922	...	...	4 „
1923	...	...	59 „
1924	...	...	86 „
1925	...	...	26 „

These number of cases, I am glad to say, is now decreasing, although now and again we get a few together.

Before closing this report, I think you will agree with me that our Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Allman, is worthy of the greatest praise in the way he has so ably done his work during the year. His willing and courteous manner has been of very great assistance to me in trying to keep the Town in health, and his untiring efforts have merited my sincerest thanks. Also to Mr. J. Price I tender my sincerest thanks for the most willing and capable way he has assisted me when ever asked, and helped to draw up this report.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT RIDDELL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Urban District of Sandbach, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Occupiers Prosecuted. 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	17		
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)	24	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (other than Out- workers Premises... ..	10		
Total	51	Nil.	Nil.

ROBERT RIDDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.



